

Celebrating the Life of
Alton Franklin Ballard
July 6, 1920 – March 8, 2015



Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Testimonial Church of God in Christ
5701 Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90062
Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth, Officiant

Order of Service

Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 11:00 a.m.

Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth, Officiant

Processional

Prayer

Elder Robert Honeycutt

Scripture Reading

**Old Testament
Psalm 24**

Elder Raymond Pillars

**New Testament
II Timothy 4:1-8**

“How Great Thou Art”

Congregational Hymn

Special Reading

Martha Cooper

Remarks and Reflections

**Tuskegee Airmen
Best Friend and Educator**

**Ron Brewington
Thomas McLurkin**

Solo

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Perry Hayes

Remarks and Reflections

**Church Ministries
Mission Ministry**

**Elder Arthur Stewart
Mary Alice Stabler**

SILENT READING OF THE OBITUARY

Acknowledgment

Edna Smith

Solo

“We Shall Behold Him”

Perry Hayes

Eulogy

Bishop Hackworth

Closing Prayer

Bishop Hackworth

Recessional

How Great Thou Art by Stuart K. Hine

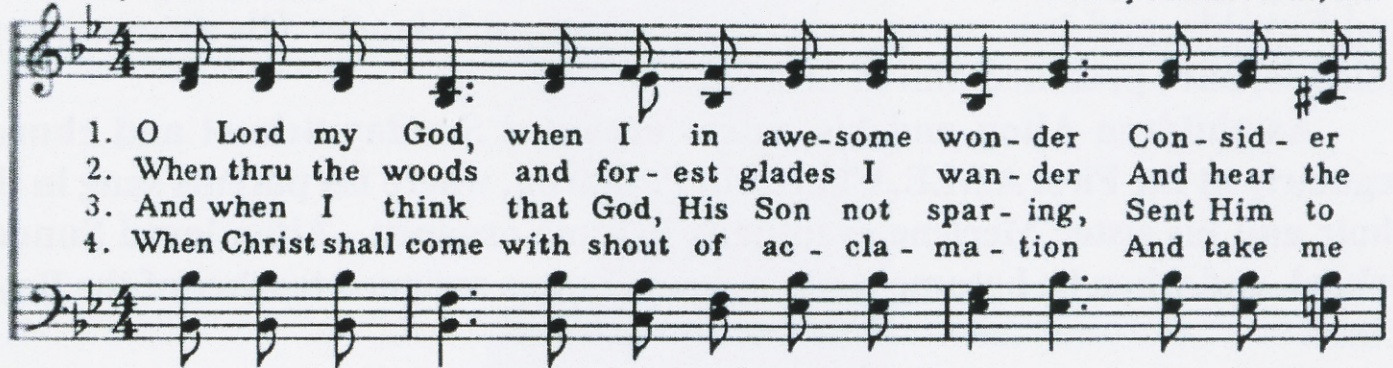
O STORE GUD

CARL BOBERG

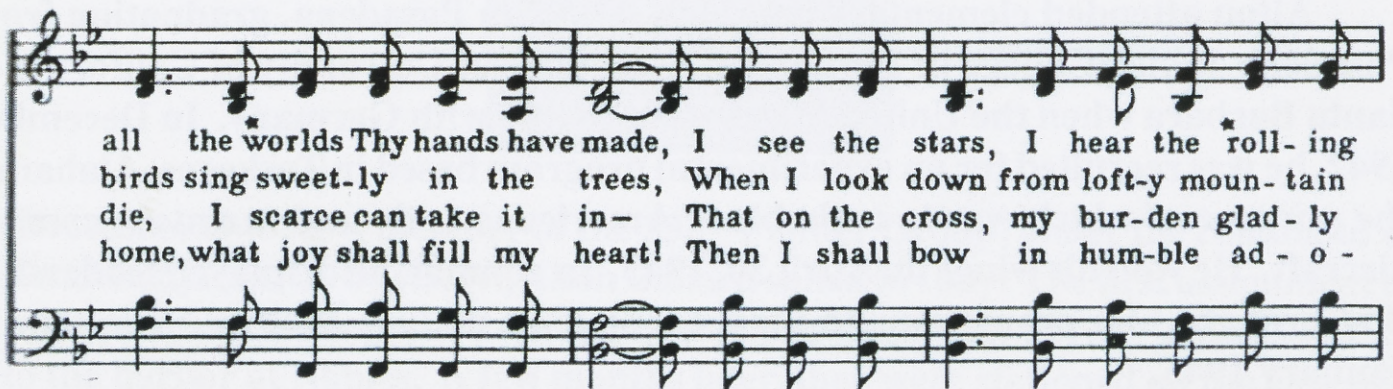
Trans. by Stuart K. Hine

Swedish melody

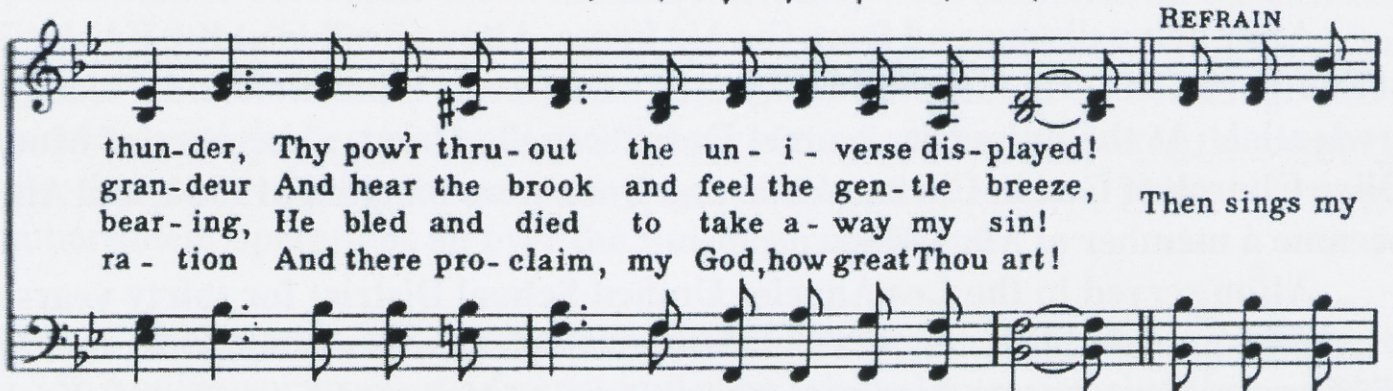
Arr. by Manna Music, Inc.



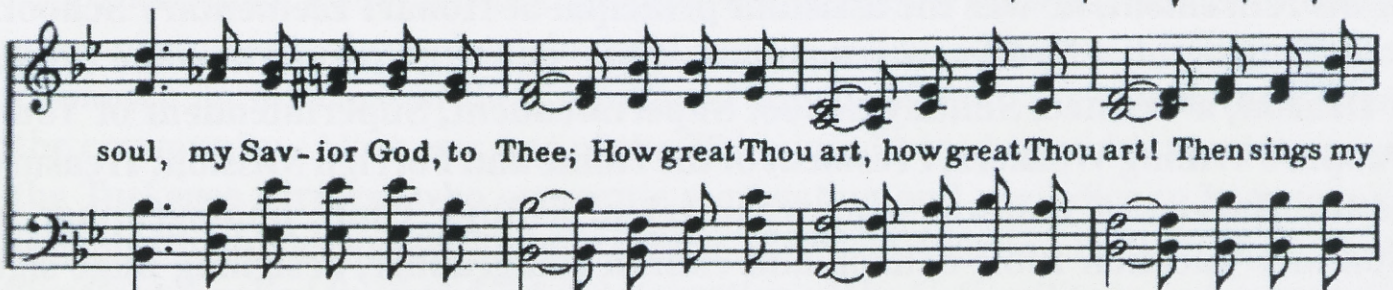
1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der Con-sid-er
2. When thru the woods and for-est glades I wan-der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, Sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion And take me



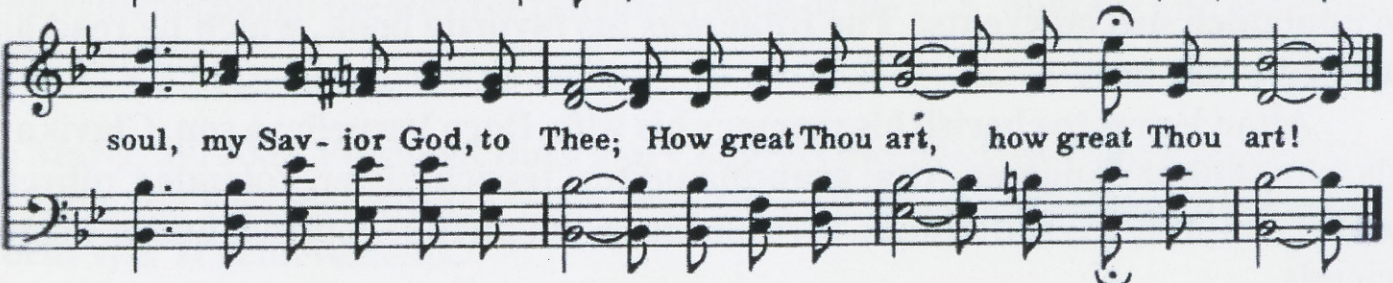
all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, When I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in- That on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



REFRAIN
thun-der, Thy pow'r thru-out the un-i-verse dis-played!
gran-deur And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze, Then sings my
bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin!
ra-tion And there pro-claim, my God, how great Thou art!



soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Obituary

On July 6, 1920, a son, Alton Franklin, was born to Porter and Ora Ballard in Pasadena, California. Alton, their only son, had two older sisters, Merlene and Euvalda, and two younger sisters, Brenda and Yolande. His sisters, except Yolande, have preceded him in death.

As children Alton and his sisters attended Sunday School and church regularly at the First A.M.E. Church in Pasadena, where his parents sang in the choir and his sister Merlene eventually became organist. Alton loved Sunday School, and when he became a young man, he was assigned teacher of the Boys' Class.

Alton attended elementary and high school in Pasadena, graduating from Pasadena Junior College in 1941. He was a junior at University of California at Santa Barbara when the United States went to war with Germany. In December 1942, he was recruited for an experimental program based in Tuskegee, Alabama, the purpose of which was to train black Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. He won his wings on April 30, 1943. In combat, he displayed leadership that brought him promotions to First Lieutenant in July 1944 and Captain in January 1945.

After being discharged from the Air Force, Alton enrolled at the University of Southern California to obtain a Master's Degree in Education and a teaching credential. At the university he met Dora Vernelle Hunn, a member of Mount Olive Church of God in Christ. Alton and Dora were married in 1952, and Alton became a member of Mt. Olive.

Alton served in the Los Angeles Unified School District for thirty years as a teacher and administrator at several different elementary schools. At the time of his retirement, he was the assistant principal at Hobart Elementary School.

During his 62 years as a member of Mt. Olive, he served at some time as a Deacon, a Trustee, Sunday School Superintendent, Superintendent of Young People's Willing Workers, President of the Home and Foreign Mission, Treasurer of the Bureau of Benevolence, organizer of a Boys' Club, photographer for Summer Vacation Bible School, and church calligrapher, designing huge signs to announce special events. The Bible was his favorite book, which he read and studied every day.

Alton leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Dora Vernelle; a son, Clavis and his wife, Anita; daughter, Alta; granddaughter, Jessica; sister, Yolande Culbreth; brother-in-law, Myron Hunn; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.

Alton Ballard, Tuskegee Airman



In December 1943, as a member of the 332nd Fighter Group, under the command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., Alton Ballard sailed to Italy. The first assignment of the 332nd Fighter Group was to protect U.S. cargo ships that were bringing supplies into the harbor at Naples. A few months later, they were stationed on the east side of Italy by the Adriatic Sea. Here they were actively engaged in long range escort of the 15th Air Force heavy bombers. Flying the advanced P-51 Mustang, which was considered the best piston engine fighter of the war, they protected the bombers under their escort during the en-route, penetration, and withdrawal phase of strategic bombardment operations all over the European continent.

The year 2000 was the 75th Anniversary year of Pasadena City College. To celebrate the 75th Anniversary, seventy-five alumni were selected from a pool of the countless number of students who had graduated from the college. These selected graduates were chosen on the basis of their significant contribution to the world, the nation, or the community. Alton was one of the 75 honored based upon his service as one of the Tuskegee Airmen, who overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. Furthermore, their achievements paved the way for full integration of the U. S. military and eventually of the nation.

On March 29, 2007, President Bush and Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen, more than 60 years after the 332nd Fighter Group's World War II achievements.

Psalms 139:1-24

1. O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.
2. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.
3. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.
4. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.
5. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.
6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.
7. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
8. If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.
9. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
10. Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.
11. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.
12. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.
13. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
14. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.
15. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
16. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.
17. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!
18. If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.
19. Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.
20. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.
21. Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?
22. I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.
23. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
24. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

**Alfonso Bloomfield
Joseph M. Bryant, Jr.
Jonathan Hunn, Sr.
William Hunn, Sr.
Leon T. Mann
Oren McLurkin**

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

**Elder Frank Holley
Myron Hunn, Sr.
Thomas McLurkin, Sr.
Bassar Richardson
The Mt. Olive Home and Foreign Mission**

Organist

Hansonia Caldwell

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Alton Ballard would like to thank each and everyone for your phone calls, visits, cards, words and deeds of kindness, and your fervent prayers. God has blessed us through each of you. We appreciate your being here with us today to help us celebrate such a wonderful life and the contributions he poured into so many other lives. Truly, we take comfort in the Scripture that assures us: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

INTERMENT

**Inglewood Park Cemetery
720 East Florence Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301**

REPAST

**Knox Presbyterian Church
5840 La Tijera Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90056**

